



Board of Trustees Meeting Minutes

June 17, 2025

The regular meeting of the Worthington Libraries Board of Trustees was held Tuesday, June 17, 2025, at 6:01 p.m. in the meeting room at Old Worthington Library with Joan Herbers presiding. Members present were Elizabeth Grieser, Emma Mulvaney, Abigail Poklar, and Haze Saputra. Also present were Lauren Robinson, Director/CEO; Jeremie Stevens, CFO; Theresa Messenger, Executive Assistant; Sam Lewis, Systems Administrator; and Robert Hess, Computer Systems Analyst.

Public participation: None

A motion was made by Ms. Mulvaney and seconded by Ms. Poklar to adopt RESOLUTION #06-01-25 to accept and approve the items under the consent agenda at one time.

- Minutes—Regular Meeting—Friday, May 20, 2025
- Fiscal Officer's Report of the Payment of Bills for May in the amount of \$1,477,427.58
- Fiscal Officer's Financial Statement and Investment Report for May 2025
- Gifts for May
- General Fund—None

Roll Call: Elizabeth Grieser, aye; Joan Herbers, aye; Emma Mulvaney, aye; Abigail Poklar, aye; and Haze Saputra, aye. Motion passed.

The following information items were presented:

- Director's Report – May 2025

Director's Report

May 2025

EMPLOYEE ENGAGEMENT

- Completed the Boss to Coach II training – became a Gallup-Certified Manager – continuing to guide supervisors through this process

COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT

- Volunteered at Leadership Worthington Service Day
- Attended CLC Governing Council meeting
- Attended ETM meeting with mid-size library directors
- Walked in the Worthington Memorial Day Parade

FUTURE PLANNING

- Advocated for library funding at the state level

LIBRARY NEWS

- State Budget process continues

May 2025

Key Performance Indicators

	Current month	Change from last month	Change from last year	Sparkline
	May 2025	April 2025	May 2024	January 2023 – May 2025
Total first-time circulation	78,054	9% ▲	-1% ●	
- Browse circulation	50,817	16% ▲	0% ●	
- Hold circulation	27,237	-2% ●	-2% ●	
Digital circulation	70,857	72,759	17% ▲	
Total door counts	58,920	6% ▲	6% ▲	
- OWL door counts	28,417	8% ▲	5% ●	
- NWL door counts	18,536	9% ▲	5% ●	
- WPK door counts	11,967	0% ●	8% ▲	
Program attendance	6,186	18% ▲	52% ▲	
Meeting room reservations	65	-2% ●	38% ▲	
Study room reservations	1,259	-12% ▼	7% ▲	
Website sessions	95,447	1% ●	-1% ●	
Pages printed	81,741	-5% ●	-53% ▼	

- State Budget Update
- Organizational Highlights – May 2025

ORGANIZATIONAL HIGHLIGHTS

MAY 2025

Library Program Highlights

Let's Make Derby Hats



To celebrate the Kentucky Derby, Library Associate Ashley Brown coordinated a craft program, Let's Make Derby Hats, on May 3. The event was attended by 42 enthusiastic patrons.

May the Fourth Be with You



On May 4, Library Associate Laela Tague-Behler presented May the Fourth Be with You. The WPK program was a galactic hit, drawing in 99 fans of all ages! Attendees enjoyed themed crafts, games and photo ops with their favorite characters from a galaxy far, far away.

Paws to Read

There were 50 people and 4 dogs in attendance on May 8 as Library Associate Emily Kleinhenz and Lead Librarian Morgan Hidy hosted another paw-some Paws to Read event at NWL. Tails were wagging and people were smiling.



K-Pop Dance for Beginners



On May 10, children got an introduction to Korean pop music and dance during WPK's K-Pop Dance for Beginners program. There were 37 attendees. Taught by the director of K-Pop Columbus, Po Chu, this session was planned by Librarian Lily Dawson to celebrate Asian American, Native Hawaiian and Pacific Islander (AANHPI) Heritage Month.

SRC Kick-Off Party - NWL



On May 29, NWL hosted its Summer Reading Club Kick-Off Party featuring Bring the Farm to You (BTFTY). At least 865 people packed the backyard to spend a fun evening with chickens, sheep, goats, ducks, rabbits and pigs. BTFTY staff provided fun facts and helpful information about their animals, and young attendees got to feed grass and clover to the hungry goats. Attendees also enjoyed temporary tattoos, crafts, coloring stations, outdoor games and activities and the Pop-Up Library.

SRC Kick-Off Party – WPK



On May 30, WPK hosted its annual Summer Reading Club Kick-off Party for 232 patrons. Young and old had a marvelous time playing mini-golf and carnival games, plus throwing axes and more. The lines for balloon art and face painting never stopped. The cotton candy was flying, and the fresh popcorn smells drew folks in by the dozens. The smell of cotton candy permeated the library throughout the weekend, providing a sweet start to SRC.

SRC Kick-Off Party – OWL



On May 31, OWL staff held the Summer Reading Club Kick-Off Party. The theme for this year's club is Ticket to Read and fun was had by all 675 patrons who stopped by for carnival games, crafts, a candy walk, a Best-in-Show Stuffed Animal station, facepainting, butter-making, a bounce house, live music and last, but certainly not least, cotton candy! OWL's entire main level was taken over by eager kiddos excited for the festivities and to sign up for SRC!

Service Highlights

Liberty Elementary First-Grade Visit and Tour

On May 7, 90 excited Liberty Elementary first-grade students walked to NWL for a visit and tour. Students also learned about SRC. The circulation workroom was a library tour favorite; kids loved seeing where books get returned and the wall of drive-up window dog pictures!

Wilson Hill and Evening Street Elementary Visits

Over the course of six visits in May, many second-grade students from Wilson Hill and Evening Street elementaries visited OWL. Overall, 165 students learned about SRC, toured the library and checked out books.

Community Engagement Highlights

Summer Reading Club Pilot with Worthington Schools

The SRC Planning Team has been discussing what equitable summers could look like at the library after several members completed Building Equitable-Based Summers training. A pilot program was planned at three Worthington elementary schools - Slate Hill, Colonial Hills and Liberty - where library staff signed every student up for our SRC before the end of the school year. Staff explained how the program works and shared exciting book talks, then each child left with a reading record and their starting prize: a free book. Because of this pilot program, 1,279 students got a head start on their summer reading.

Pop-Up Library

In May, the Pop-Up Library made six community stops and reached 673 people.

Staff Highlights

Emily Kleinhenz, NWL adult services library associate, has announced her resignation. Emily has accepted a position as librarian at the downtown Newark branch of Licking County Library. "This is a bittersweet time for me. I love you all so much and I have learned so much from you guys. I cannot thank you enough for your kindness and I have nothing but the deepest gratitude for you all. I will miss you all so much!" Emily's last day will be June 22.

Finance Operations

- Finance Report

Personnel

- No Personnel Appointments

Ms. Saputra provided an update from the Board Governance Committee meeting. The committee established a timeline for the trustee search process. The committee also began a discussion on the potential use of virtual board meetings. It was determined that additional research is needed before any policy recommendations are brought to the Board.

Lauren Robinson provided an update on the Mid-Year Action Plan, noting that progress is going very well. The team is moving full steam ahead with the implementation of the Workplace Culture Agreement. A portion of each supervisor meeting has been dedicated to training on supervisor expectations. These efforts align with the broader goals outlined through Gallup. As this marks the mid-point of the year, the update served as a check-in on progress to date.

Board Retreat Update—To date, availability responses have been received from four board members. Lisa Corcoran has been contacted to serve as a guest speaker, and Amy Brown, HR Information Services Manager, is scheduled to lead a training session focused on Gallup.

A motion was made by Ms. Grieser and seconded by Ms. Mulvaney to adopt RESOLUTION #06-02-25 to cancel the July Board of Trustees Meeting.

Voice vote: 5 ayes; 0 nays. Motion passed.

Ms. Herbers moved the adjournment of the meeting at 6:41 p.m.

Bank Balance as of May 31, 2025: \$23,143,349.89

This meeting was digitally recorded and is maintained on file by the Worthington Public Library.
